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Raia sentenced to 3 months in prison for Hoboken cashfor-votes scheme

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- Frank Raia Reena Rose Sibayan/Journal Photo Reena Rose Sibayan | The Jersey Journal

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By Ron Zeitlinger | The Jersey Journal

Frank Raia, the Hoboken politico who <u>orchestrated a vote-by-mail scheme</u> while a city council candidate in 2013, was sentenced to three months in prison Monday.

The developer and one-time school board trustee was also ordered to one year of supervised released and fined \$50,000 when he was sentenced in federal court. The sentencing of Dio Braxton, who pleaded guilty to conspiring with Raia, was postponed.

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Raia was found guilty in June of paying residents — most of them living in public housing — \$50 for their votes. At the time, Raia was running for an at-large seat on the Hoboken City Council. He finished seventh in a 10-person field for the three seats.

Raia, who is a developer, also ran unsuccessfully in a special election for mayor in November 2009, a few months after Peter Cammarano resigned.

Three others — Matt Calicchio, Lizaida Camis and William Rojas — $\underline{\text{all pleaded guilty to their roles}}$ in a cash-for-votes scheme in 2013 or 2015.

A number of witnesses testified at Raia's trial that they were told by Raia to offer \$50 to low-income voters living in subsidized housing to cast their vote for the One Hoboken slate, as well as for a referendum that would have <u>weakened rent control laws</u>. Raia was a member of the One Hoboken slate.

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